

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL NAHA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

GOVGUAM

TREASURY

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 227662

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 24 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. JAPAN

EMPEROR, MIKI SEND SYMPATHY MESSAGES TO PRES AFTER MONDAY ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, REGRET IT HAPPENED. GOJ OFFICIALS REPORTED "NERVOUS" ABOUT ABILITY US SECURITY AGENTS ASSURE SAFETY OF HIROHITO DURING VISIT (UPI, NYT).

WP SAYS FOREIGN REACTION TO SFO INCIDENT SHARPEST IN JAPAN, WHERE FEARS ROUSED ABOUT EMPEROR'S SAFETY DURING VISIT STARTING NEXT TUESDAY.

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SAAR (WP) QUOTES EMPEROR'S REPLY TO PRESS QUESTION MONDAY -- "I TRUST THE POLICE AUTHORITIES OF THE UNITED STATES AND HAVE NO WORRIES AT ALL." CITES MFA SPOKESMAN WHO SAID TUESDAY EMPEROR WILL HAVE "MORE

DISTANT" EXPOSURE TO PUBLIC (THAN PRES), THEREFORE RISK LESS. CITES REPORT FILED BY JAPANESE CORRESPONDENT FROM WASHINGTON THAT ATTACK ON EMPEROR "COULD COME FROM ANY SIDE" -- JAPANESE RADICALS, FANATICS, OR SOMEONE NURSING WW II GRUDGE. ALSO NOTES UNCONFIRMED REPORT GOJ HAS ASKED "MORE STRINGENT" USSS PROTECTION FOR ROYAL COUPLE.

STROUT (CSM) IN WASHINGTON SAYS SOURCE OF JAPANESE CONCERNS ABOUT SAFETY OF EMPEROR IN US EVIDENT IN STATISTICS -- ONLY 37 JAPANESE KILLED BY HAND GUNS LAST YEAR IN CONTRAST 769 IN NYC ALONE; 2.5 MILLION HANDGUNS ADDED TO US TOTAL EACH YEAR. CITES ASAHI COMMENT THAT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT MONDAY "CONDUCTED BY AMERICAN RADICALS" WHO NOT LIKELY TAKE ACTION AGAINST EMPEROR'S VISIT.

NATL POLICE OFFICIALS SAID 1,081 GANGSTER HIDEOUTS RAIDED THROUGHOUT NATION TUESDAY; 1,221 GANGSTERS INCLUDING 27 "BIG BASSES" ARRESTED ON CHARGES GAMBLING, EXTORTION, ILLEGAL DRUG POSSESSION. BIGGEST CRACKDOWN SINCE WW II. SEVEN SHOTGUNS, 27 PISTOLS SEIZED, OF WHICH 22 CONVERTED FROM MODEL GUNS (AP NYT, NYDN, WP; CSM).

CULLISON (JOC) CITES ITI MIN KOMOTO TELLING PRESS TUESDAY US RECOVERY EXPECTED FURTHER STRENGTHEN DOLLAR AGAINST YEN. WARNED COULD FORCE JAPANESE OIL REFINERIES REDUCE IMPORTS, ESPECIALLY IF OPEC RAISES PRICE.

CULLISON ALSO NOTES BUSINESS MISSION TO DUSSELDORF OPENED TALKS ON MASSIVE JOINT VENTURE WITH GERMAN STEEL FIRMS TO DEVELOP PUTU IRON MINE RESOURCES IN LIBERIA; INCLUDES NIPPON STEEL, NIPPON KOKAN, SUMITOMO METALS, SUMITOMO SHOJI, NICHIMEN AND EXPLORATION UND BERGBAU GMBH.

CANADA BEGINS ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION OF CERTAIN UNCLASSIFIED

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TYPES POLYETHYLENE FABRICS IMPORTED FROM JAPAN (WSJ, OTTAWA).

MITSUBISHI CORP, TOYOBO, MEIWA TRADING CONTRACT TO BUILD INTEGRATED SPINNING, WEAVING PLANT IN CUBA VALUED AT 71.6 MILLION DOLS. MITSUBISHI SPOKESMAN SAID CAPACITY 70 MILLION SQ YDS/YR, COMPLETION DATE MAY, 1979. CONTRACT CALLS FOR 15 PERCENT DOWN PAYMENT, BALANCE OVER 10 YRS IN YEN, AT 7.5 PERCENT INTEREST (WSJ, TOKYO).

UPI (TOKYO) DESCRIBES 6 MILLION-MEMBER CHIFUREN (NATL FEDN OF REGIONAL WOMENS ORGS) AS MOST POWERFUL WOMEN'S

GROUP IN NATION; CONSERVATIVE, AND FOCUSING ON CONSUMER PROBLEMS INSTEAD OF FEMINIST ISSUES LIKE EQUAL PAY, ABORTION (NYT).

2. KOREA

DC SUPERIOR COURT TUESDAY DISMISSED HELANDER SUIT TO FORCE REV SUN MYUNG MOON RETURN 18-YR OLD DAUGHTER WENDY, WHOM THEY ALLEGED BEING HELD AGAINST WILL BY UNIFICATION CHURCH. JUDGE BELSON SAID PLAINTIFFS FAILED PROVE ALLEGATIONS.

ANDERSON/WHITTEN (WP) SAY HAVE FOUND "BIZARRE PLOT" BY INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY TO POISON NK GENL STAFF DURING KOREAN WAR.

3. CHINA

CHITRIB'S WIEDRICH (9/21) SAYS "INFORMED SOURCES" HAVE TOLD HIM US INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE OF USSR MIL COMMUNICATIONS HELPED PREVENT SOVIET AIRBORNE STRIKE AGAINST PRC NUKE/MISSILE INSTALLATIONS IN FALL OF 1969. ACCORDING REPORT, SOVIET AIR/LAND FORCES WERE ALREADY IN MOTION, US ASKED BY KREMLIN ABOUT ITS POSITION IF STRIKE CARRIED OUT; US WARNED OF THIRD WORLD WAR RISK, MOSCOW RELENTED, CALLED OFF ATTACK ON PRC.

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IN ARTICLE ATTACKING PEARL BUCK FOR GIVING "WATER MARGIN" WESTERN NAME, "ALL MEN ARE BROTHERS," SHANGHAI STUDY AND CRITICISM JOURNAL SAYS BREZHNEV, LIKE BOOK'S HERO (SUN CHAING), BETRAYED HIS "BROTHERS" IN AUTHORIZING SOVIET OCCUPATION CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968 (WP).

KAISER ALUMINUM HAS COMPLETED TERMS OF AGREEMENT WITH PRC FOR SALE OF 100 MILLION TONS ALUMINUM INGOT TO PEKING BEFORE YEAR'S END. FIRM DECLINES PLACING FIXED VALUE ON TRANSACTION, BUT SAYS WILL BE RELATIVELY CLOSE TO THOSE CHARGED FOR ITS NORMAL EXPORT BUSINESS -- WHICH WOULD PLACE CONTRACT VALUE IN 35-40 MILLION DOLS RANGE, BASED ON PUBLISHED ALUMINUM INGOT WORLD PRICE

OF 39 CENTS PER POUND. DEAL BELIEVED ONE OF LARGEST FOR US-BASED COMPANIES THIS YEAR WITH PRC; SO FAR THIS YEAR, WESTERN NATIONS HAVE SOLD PRC MORE THAN 300,000 TONS ALUMINUM (NYT).

SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION OF SENTENCES ACCORDED THREE WELL-KNOWN POLITICAL PRISONERS, FOLLOWING RETRAIL LAST WEEK ON CHARGES SUPPORTING "TAIWANESE INDEPENDENCE," APPEARS FURTHER CONCILIATORY GESTURE BY GROC TOWARD

DOMESTIC LIBERALS (WSTAR 9/23).'

RE MONDAY ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST PRES FORD,
HK CHINA-WATCHERS TOLD WP'S GREENWAY AVERAGE CHINESE
UNLIKELY EVER TO KNOW ABOUT IT, SINCE PEKING CAREFUL
NOT PUBLICIZE US MISFORTUNES/FOIBLES; EARLIER ATTEMPT
ON FORD'S LIFE NEVER ANNOUNCED IN PRC MASS-CIRCULATION
NEWS ORGANS.

CCK SAYS OF ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST PRES, THAT
"IT IS INDEED A CHAOTIC WORLD" (UPI, NYT).

TYPHOON BETTY SLOWS AS LEAVES TAIPEI; CAUSED 12
DEATHS, INJURIES TO 108 -- 24 IN SERIOUS CONDITION --
THREE MISSING; 210 HOUSES DESTROYED AND 512 OTHERS
DAMAGED ACCORDING POLICE (AP, SUN).

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4. PHILIPPINES

IN 106-PAGE STATEMENT ON STATE OF COUNTRY, CIVIL LIBERTIES
UNION OF PHILS CALLED ON MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES TUESDAY
TO LIFT IMMEDIATELY THREE-YEAR STATE OF EMERGENCY,
RESTORE "DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES" (REUTER, NYT).

MUHAMMAD ALI REPORTEDLY HAS INTRODUCED TRAVELING
COMPANION, VERONICA PORCHE, AS WIFE AT SEVERAL MANILA
SOCIAL FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING VISITS WITH PRES MARCOS
(NYT'S ANDERSON).

5. THAILAND

SEVERAL HUNDRED MEO REFUGEES DROWNED WHEN TRYING
CROSS RIVER AFTER CAMP IN NORTHERN THAILAND CAME UNDER
PL ARTILLERY FIRE 2 WEEKS AGO. OVER 5000 FLED TO ESCAPE
BARRAGE FROM ACROSS BORDER (WP; AP, SUN).

ABOUT 200 COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS SEIZE RTG MIL OUTPOST
IN UDON PROV, KILL 7 SOLDIERS IN 2-HR BATTLE (REUTER
BANGKOK).

NYT'S ANDELMAN AT BANGKOK DESCRIBES DEPLORABLE KLONG
TOEY CONDITIONS, WHERE 40,000 LIVE IN WORST OF CITY'S
SLUMS. SAYS AT LEAST 400,000 LIVE IN 200 SIMILAR
SLUM AREAS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT CAPITAL. QUOTES
HOUSING AUTHORITY THAT 100,000 NEW UNITS NEEDED TO
REPLACE SLUMS IN CITY, BUT LAST YR FEWER THAN 300 BUILT.
NOTES KUKRIT HAS PLEDGED BUILD 20,000 YRLY FOR 5 YEARS,
BUT PROGRAM HAS YET TO GET UNDER WAY.

6. TIMOR

LISBON DENIES REPORT THAT UDT PLANS EXECUTE 22 PORT PRISONERS FOR WAR CRIMES (WP).

7. INDONESIA

GARUDA PLANE CRASHES IN SOUTH SUMATRA, 20 OF 68 ABOARD BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED (AP, WP).
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8. INDOCHINA

SUN'S WU NOTES SINO-SOVIET RIVALRY, PRC RECONSTRUCTION AID DOMINATE TOP-LEVEL PRC-NVN TALKS. SAYS LE DUAN'S PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO GET MASSIVE ECON ASSISTANCE, BUT PRC LEADERS WANT CHECK EXPANDING USSR INFLUENCE IN VN BY WARNING OF "SUPERPOWER HEGEMONISM." DUAN RECEIVED HERO'S WELCOME, STATE BANQUET HOSTED BY TENG HSIAO-PING WHOSE SPEECH PREOCCUPIED WITH QUESTION USSR SWAY IN INDOCHINA. LE DUAN PROFUSELY THANKED PEKING FOR AID DURING LONG WAR, BUT DID "EQUAL JUSTICE" TO USSR WITHOUT MENTIONING NAMES TO AVOID EMBARRASSING HOSTS. WU CONCLUDES SINO-SOVIET RIVALRY WILL GIVE HANOI EXTRA CHIP IN ECON TALKS COMING UP.

FRG, NVN ESTABLISH DIP RELS (WP).

SAIGON EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR TURNING IN OLD MONEY TO ACCOMMODATE CRUSH OF PEOPLE SEEKING MAKE EXCHANGE. NEW CURRENCY WOULD HAVE SIMILAR VALUE TO NVN UNIT (REUTER, NYT).

TO STABILIZE PRICES, PREVENT HOARDING, PRG INTRODUCES PRICEA FIXING WITH THREATS OF PUNISHMENT FOR SPECULATORS (REUTER HK).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

9. KOREA

PHINQ STATES BOTH VIETNAMS HAVE AS MUCH RIGHT TO JOIN UN AS PNG, CAPE VERDE, SAO TOME PRINCE AND MOZAMBIQUE, BUT US VETOED BECAUSE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY NOT APPLIED EQUALLY TO ROK. FINDS NOTHING INCONSISTENT IN US POLICY, AND SUGGESTS DEADLOCK CAN BE BROKEN WHEN OTHER MEMBERS UNSC PRACTICE PRINCIPLE UN PROCLAIMS.

SUN HAILS SECSTATE PROPOSALS AT UN, INCLUDING CALL FOR CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO KOREAN ARMISTICE, WHICH IS

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WAY TO LET UNC CEASE TWO DECADES AFTER WAR, WITHOUT ENCOURAGING WAR TO RESUME. BELIEVES PROPOSAL SHOULD AT LEAST DRUM UP THIRD WORLD, COMMUNIST PRESSURE AGAINST KIM IL SUNG TO TONE DOWN SABER - RATTLING.

WP SUPPORTS "SENSIBLE" US INITIATIVE ON KOREA WHICH SHOULD HELP CLARIFY ISSUE IN STILL-TENSE PENINSULA, EVEN IF ISSUE ITSELF REMAINS UNRESOLVED FOR LONG TIME. NO ONE EXPECTS NK ABANDON OPPOSITION GERMAN-STYLE TWO-KOREA SOLUTION; BUT WASHINGTON'S PUTTING UP SIGNPOST FOR NEGOTIATION PROCESS SHOULD HELP INTL COMMUNITY "(AND CONGRESS)" BETTER UNDERSTAND PROBLEM IS NOT HARSH QUALITY OF GOVT IN SEOUL OR CONTINUED US MIL PRESENCE, BUT NK ADAMANT REFUSAL TO CONSIDER TRANSLATING ARMISTICE INTO SETTLED PEACE.

10. SEATO

STLP-D (9/10) THINKS THIS SHOULD BE SEATO'S LAST ANNIVERSARY. REVIEWS HISTORY, RECENT SUGGESTIONS BY RTG, PHILS THAT ORGANIZATION BE PHASED OUT, FRENCH REFUSAL PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES, AUSSIE, NZ CRITICISM OF ALLIANCE STRUCTURE. SEES ONLY PROBLEM RAISED BY SEATO DISSOLUTION IS LEAVING THAILAND WITHOUT ANY TREATY RELATIONSHIP WITH US; BUT THAILAND MAY NOT WANT RELATIONSHIP TYING IT TOO CLOSELY TO WESTERN CAMP. BELIEVES UNREAL FOR US TO REMAIN MOVING SPIRIT OF SPIRITLESS ALLIANCE; FEELS ASEAN FAR MORE CONSTRUCTIVE THAN FALSE SECURITY PROVIDED BY SEATO.

11. GENERAL

CROSBY NOYES (WSTAR 9/23) NOTES ADMIN TOUGH TALK, ESPECIALLY ABOUT SK, DESPITE INDOCHINA DEBACLE. SAYS MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT PATH ETICALLY SUPPOSED PROVIDE PROOF CONTINUING US RESOLVE. WONDERS HOW MUCH CONFIDENCE ASIAN LEADERS CAN PLACE IN ADMIN "COMMITMENTS." SAYS IN ASSESSING US RELIABILITY, FOREIGN LEADERS MUST WEIGH CONGRESS/PEOPLE'S MOOD ALONG WITH OFFICIAL PROMISES. POINTS OUT THAILAND WILL BE ON OWN WHEN US TROOPS LEAVE, BUT HASN'T MIL POWER STAND UP TO NVN, SO ISN'T UNCLASSIFIED

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HARD PREDICT WHAT ITS ALIGNMENT WILL BE. BELIEVES US "COMMITMENTS" IN ASIA MOSTLY OFF-SHORE INCLUDING KOREAN PENINSULA, JAPAN, TAIWAN, PHILS; BUT IN THESE COUNTRIES CONFIDENCE IN US PERFORMANCE BADLY ERODED. BELIEVES JAPAN HAS 3 OPTIONS: CONTINUED TOTAL RELIANCE ON US; MASSIVE REARMAMENT; IMMEDIATE SURRENDER TO COMMUNIST POWER THAT MIGHT THREATEN. CONCLUDES FINAL OPTION BY

NO MEANS INCONCEIVABLE. SISCO

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